Colorado Cyber Security E-News

From: Mark Weatherford, Chief Information Security Officer, State of Colorado
November 2006

National Cyber Security Awareness Month - Colorado Kickoff

On October 4, 2006 - the Colorado Cyber Security Program joined states across the country with the launch of Cyber Security Awareness Month. The Colorado kick-off held at Platte River Academy in Highlands Ranch featured a web cast of an Interactive Play, geared for 4th and 5th graders. Over 150 students, administrators, teachers, and parents attended the kick-off.

Nationwide over 10,000 students, parents, educators and adults representing 40 states and 4 countries viewed the web cast. The play used content from i-SAFE - **http://www.isafe.org/**, an organization dedicated to teaching secure, responsible and effective Internet and computer use, and acted out with members of the Plays for Living - **http://www.playsforliving.org/** organization, a nonprofit organization that utilizes live theater dramas to depict the real-life challenges.

To view the archived presentation, please visit:
http://www.msisac.org/webcast/10_06/

***Cyber Security Office Highlighted in
The Denver Business Journal***

Fight ID theft – Excerpt: October 6th

"The state government is doing its part to prevent cyber crimes, making October in Colorado part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

"It's really just to raise awareness, and empower businesses and citizens with information about protecting them from cyber security threats," says Mark Weatherford, chief information security officer at the Colorado Cyber Security Office.

His office is distributing public service announcements, as well as a "toolkit" of information that includes brochures, posters and calendars (**www.colorado.gov/cybersecurity**).

Weatherford is a Raytheon veteran. Gov. Bill Owens appointed him in April 2005 as the state's first cyber security chief. His charge is to protect the state government's computer and network systems. "Part of my outreach effort helps me to do that," Weatherford says. "The more we can make the public aware, the better off we'll be."

The biggest threat to businesses? He cites phishing, which leads to ID theft. "The banking industry is spending a lot of money, both mitigating and remediating ID theft," he says. "This is a huge cost to the financial industry."

Of course, phishing is used against individuals every day as well. Other major threats include viruses and spyware.

If you're asked online to change your password "because your credit card has been compromised" or for some other unlikely reason -- don't do it. "If you enter any personal information, it's captured and compromised by the bad guys," Weatherford says.

Install firewalls and security software to battle back against the evildoers who desperately want to glean information that will enable them to hack into your computer. Once they're in, they can do untold damage via ID theft and altering what's on your hard drive.

Few people, Weatherford says, know that Web sites they visit have the ability to capture certain information bits about their computer.

My main goal is to spread the gospel, raise some awareness, Weatherford says. This is aimed at the public. It helps me in my job. The more the public is aware of

cyber security and how to mitigate the threats, the more it helps me accomplish some of the goals I've established."

www.W3W3.com - Internet Security Hazards are on the Increase

Excepted from w3w3.com

The Colorado Cyber Security Office was featured in a recent interview on **www.w3w3.com**. For the complete interview please visit:
http://www.w3w3.com/#Mark_CISO

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure or maybe your ID, or your hard drive or other vital aspects of your business. Once again the state of Colorado has become a leader in the high-tech arena. **Mark Weatherford**, Colorado Chief Information Security Officer, said, "The State of Colorado acts as a resource for gathering information from the federal government and other states on cyber threats and provides two way sharing of information between and among the states and, ultimately, with local governments and the business community." 10/23/06.

A Note from the Colorado Cyber Security Office

We share a common goal with Homeland Security and our industry partners, to provide individuals with the tools and information they need to practice safe online behaviors. The scope and impact of existing and emerging online threats requires an ongoing partnership between government, businesses, schools, and consumers. Working together, we can make the Internet safer for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at
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